



Iowa Ag News – Sheep and Lambs

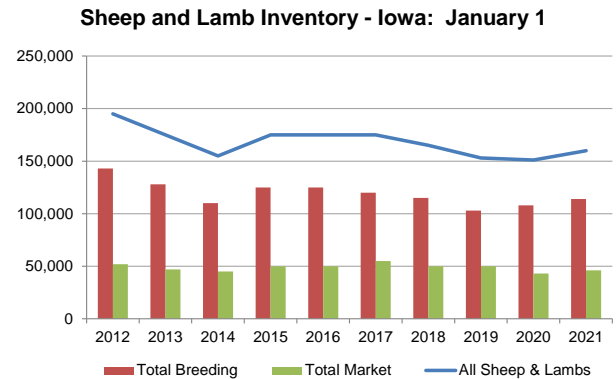
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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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All sheep and lambs inventory in Iowa as of January 1, 2021, totaled 160,000 head according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Sheep and Goats* report. The sheep and lambs inventory is up 9,000 head from last year. Total **breeding stock**, at 114,000 head, was 6% above one year ago. **Market sheep and lambs** increased 7% from a year ago and totaled 46,000 head. The **lamb crop** for 2020 increased 4% to 120,000 head. **Wool production** for the State was 795,000 pounds, with fleece weights averaging 5.9 pounds.



Sheep and Lambs Inventory by Class – Iowa and United States: January 1, 2020 and 2021

| Class | Iowa | | | United States | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2021 as % of 2020 | 2020 | 2021 | 2021 as % of 2020 |
| | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head) | (percent) | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head) | (percent) |
| All sheep and lambs | 151.0 | 160.0 | 106 | 5,200.0 | 5,170.0 | 99 |
| Total breeding sheep | 108.0 | 114.0 | 106 | 3,810.0 | 3,780.0 | 99 |
| Ewes | 85.0 | 90.0 | 106 | 2,980.0 | 2,960.0 | 99 |
| Rams | 4.0 | 4.0 | 100 | 170.0 | 170.0 | 100 |
| Replacement lambs | 19.0 | 20.0 | 105 | 660.0 | 650.0 | 98 |
| Total market | 43.0 | 46.0 | 107 | 1,390.0 | 1,390.0 | 100 |

Lamb Crop – Iowa and United States: 2019 and 2020

| | Iowa | | | United States | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2020 as % of 2019 | 2019 | 2020 | 2020 as % of 2019 |
| | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head) | (percent) | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head) | (percent) |
| Lamb crop | 115.0 | 120.0 | 104 | 3,230.0 | 3,210.0 | 99 |

Wool Production, Price and Value – Iowa and United States: 2019 and 2020

| Class | Iowa | | | United States | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------------------|---------------|---------|-------------------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2020 as % of 2019 | 2019 | 2020 | 2020 as % of 2019 |
| Sheep shorn.....(1,000 head) | 130.0 | 135.0 | 104 | 3,320.0 | 3,275.0 | 99 |
| Weight per fleece.....(pounds) | 5.7 | 5.9 | 104 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 99 |
| Production.....(1,000 pounds) | 740 | 795 | 107 | 24,010 | 23,124 | 96 |
| Price per pound.....(dollars) | 0.45 | 0.30 | 67 | 1.89 | 1.66 | 88 |
| Value ¹(1,000 dollars) | 333 | 239 | 72 | 45,364 | 38,405 | 85 |

¹ Production multiplied by marketing year average price. United States value is the summation of State values.

United States Sheep and Lambs

All sheep and lambs inventory in the United States on January 1, 2021, totaled 5.17 million head, down 1% from 2020. Breeding sheep inventory at 3.78 million head on January 1, 2021, decreased 1% from 3.81 million head on January 1, 2020. Ewes one year old and older, at 2.96 million head, were 1% below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2021, totaled 1.39 million head, unchanged from January 1, 2020. Market lambs comprised 94% of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6% of total market inventory.

The 2020 lamb crop of 3.21 million head was down 1% from 2019. The 2020 lambing rate was 108 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2020, unchanged from 2019.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2020 was 23.1 million pounds, down 4% from 2019. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.28 million head, down 1% from 2019. The average price paid for wool sold in 2020 was \$1.66 per pound for a total value of 38.4 million dollars, down 15% from 45.4 million dollars in 2019.

Sheep death loss during 2020 totaled 210 thousand head, down 4% from 2019. Lamb death loss was down 5% from 388 thousand head to 370 thousand head in 2020.

**All Sheep and Lambs Inventory – United States:
January 1**

